Mapline

A quarterly newsletter published by
The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography
at The Newberry Library

Number 42 June 1986 **Dalia Varanka,** *Editor*

DEMYSTIFYING PLACE-NAMES

From a manuscript map in the Newberry's "Cartes Marines" collection, part of the coast of Vietnam, with (a) The Dutch rendering of *the Hook of 'cinco chagas'*! The first letter of the penultimate word should be an 'S,' but appears to be either a 'T' or a 'J.' (b) The island named *Porto Cambir de Mare* shows a misunderstanding of the abbreviation p^0, intended to be for the Malay pulo *('island'), but variously rendered, here as porto* ('port'), elswhere as *Pedro* ('Peter') or *Paulo* ('Paul').

The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography Director: **David Buisseret**

The Center was founded in 1972 at The Newberry Library to promote the study of the history of cartography through research projects, fellowships, courses of instruction, and publications. Further information is available on request.

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A Hulsius map (1602) shows:

(a) *Entada da raca,* in northern Burma; the Portuguese original would have read *enceada daraca* ('Bay of Arakan'). (b) *S. Chaos,* against an island off the south coast of China. It is the result of its Chinese name. The form *samchoao* is very common, and the first three letters, *sam,* was one spelling for the Portuguese word for 'saint', now written *sao.* (c) *I. Tintiosa,* against another island further down the Chinese coast, actually off the coast of Hainan Island. It should read *Tinhosa,* the name of a sea bird, but a manuscript 'h' was evidently misread as 'ti'. (d) *Aquisa,* on the west coast of Sumatra. It is the slightly mistranscribed first two words *aqui se* of the long inscription *aqui se perdeo a nao S. Paulo* ('Here the ship S. Paulo was lost'). The rest of the inscription itself got lost, but the other Hulsius map illustrated records the last part of it. (e) *I. das Cebolas* ('onions'), on the south coast of Burma. A Portuguese mistranscription of the local name, probably spelled *cabosa* or *cabosas*; a typical case of 'editing'.

Despite the vast amount of research that has been carried out on place-names in Europe, Canada and the U.S.A., remarkably few of the techniques involved have been applied to the field of the history of cartography.

The reason is doubtless that most historians of cartography are primarily cartographers or historians, while place-name research calls first and foremost for qualifications in the fields of historical linguistics and palaeography. Moreover, some expertise is usually required in several languages, even if the area to be studied is quite restricted. Place-names in the Caribbean area inevitably demand a knowledge of Spanish and French, and preferably Dutch, as well as of a number of local Indian languages, some of which are no longer spoken.

Place-name study in the Indian Ocean, the Far East, southeast Asia, Indonesia and the Philippines obviously requires Portuguese, French, Dutch and Spanish, besides, ideally, Malay, and a bit of Chinese and Arabic. Such breadth of linguistic knowledge, even without the requisite historical and cartographical expertise, is clearly never achievable by any one individual. The obvious solution is cooperation between a number of linguists, historians and cartographers.

Even the trained investigator is faced by as many hazards as those which confronted experienced sixteenth- and seventeenth-century mariners in unknown or unfamiliar seas. The innumerable wrecks left behind by enthusiastic amateur explorers in the toponymic unknown reveal such voyages to be through fascinating, inviting waters which are regrettably strewn with extensive minefields, as well as reefs, sandbanks and submerged rocks. The correct solution of place-name problems requires consideration of several major factors:

1. The most essential element to grasp is the vital importance of how a word may be pronounced. Fixation upon a specific spelling will often prove a serious hindrance.
2. In the absence of consistent phonetic spelling, writers sharing the same native tongue could render the same name differently. Writers who spoke different languages would almost inevitably do so, since there is considerable variation between one language and another in their representation of a given sound.
3. It is therefore essential to examine as many examples of a given name as possible, over as broad a time spectrum as possible and recorded by as many different nationalities as possible.
4. Manuscript words could easily be miscopied, especially by copyists from different language groups. Some errors were sheer carelessness; others were due to real difficulties in deciphering different letters, above all words in an unknown language, or one containing unfamiliar letter combinations. In the sixteenth century, capital letters were seldom used and the absence of the dot over the 'i' for example, led to endless confusion in combinations of the letters, 'i,' 'u,' 'n,' and 'm.'
5. While some words were copied, some were translated, both with varying degrees of accuracy.
6. Some words in a foreign language looked so like a word in the copyist's own language that he would write that one down. A subsequent copyist could then "translate" that word.
7. Many words were incorrectly joined, while others were erroneously divided, sometimes being written on different levels. This could lead either to the separate parts being attached to different features, or one part being lost altogether, especially if space was at a premium.
8. The frequent absence of generics, such as 'bay,' 'island,' 'river,' often led to names being attached to the wrong geographical features. A name written between two features could get attached to either, or in some cases to both.
9. Transcriptions of a name could vary so much one from another that they were unrecognisable as being the same, so a feature could easily be duplicated. Names recorded from different native sources could also result in a place appearing two or more times with names bearing no resemblance whatsoever to one another.
10. Maps composed from material from different sources could contain inscriptions in a variety of languages, or in weird crosses between two or more languages.
11. The position of a name or geographical feature on an early map or chart may well be deceptive, not merely because of careless placement, but also because many names were recorded on maps on the evidence of travellers' accounts lacking any indication of their correct location.

A few examples can suffice to show both the dangers and the fascination of place-name study.

It is relatively easy to see how a shoal between Madagascar and Moçambique changed from *Judia* or *Iudia* ('Jewess,' after a ship by that name which was wrecked there.) to *India.* Similarly, it requires relatively little imagination to see how an island the Portuguese called *Pedra Branca* ('White Rock'), not merely got translated into French and Italian as *Pierre Blanche* and *Pietra Bianca* respectively, but also was turned into *Pedro Blanco* ('Peter White') by Spaniards.

In many cases it is impossible to see any connection between an early and a later rendering of the same word, so different have they become. An understanding of the mechanisms of transliteration helps when sufficient examples are available. A cape on the coast of Vietnam named St. James on British charts is quite unrecognisable as being a descendant of the original Portuguese name *cinco chagas* ('the five wounds' of Christ), possibly in some variant spelling such as *Sinquo Chaguas.* Only by following the name via such Dutch versions as *Sinques Jaques* and French *St. Jacques* which the English translated, can the transformation be understood.

Similarly, an island off the southwest coast of Haiti, apparently originally known by an Indian name, *Baque,* was turned into *vaca* ('cow') by the Spaniards, a relatively minor pronunciation alteration. At one stage it became the *Isle of Ash* on English charts. How? Via the French translation of the Spanish as *Île à vache.*

Northeast of Cuba there is a shoal which was marked in Spanish *Mira como uas* ('Watch how you go'). Someone, either ignorant, or with a sense of humour, turned it into *Maria como uas* ('Maria, how are you going?' or more colloquially, 'Maria, how are you?'.) Only the punctuation was lacking.

Off the coast of southern Burma is an island spelled Kaboza on some modern maps. In earlier ones it had appeared as *cabosa* and *cabosas,* with the old long letter 's.' A Portuguese altered this to *cebolas* ('onions').

A shoal off the South West coast of Sumatra is named *Aquisa* on one map. It is the incorrectly copied first part of a long Portuguese inscription which originally read *aqui se perdeo a nao S. Paulo* ('Here the ship Sao Paulo was lost'). Another map in the same work names the shoal *Anao S. Paulo,* omitting the first part of the inscription.

The Portuguese named a cape on Newfoundland's east coast *cabo* (de) *espera* ('Cape of waiting'); the French equated the word, from the *look* of it, as *cap de l'espoir* ('Cape of hope'); English speakers, also from the look of the Portuguese word, turned it into *Spear.*

Endless such linguistic gems await discovery on maps, charts and in rutters, pilot books and travellers' accounts.

W.A.R. Richardson
Reader in Spanish & Portuguese and
Newberry Library Fellow from
Flinders University, South Australia

Another Hulsius (1608) map showing: (a) On the west coast of Sumatra the remainder of the inscription about the wreck of the *S. Paulo,* with the definite article 'a' joined to the word *nao* ('ship'). (b) At the eastern end of Java the 'town' of *Fideida,* one of the many spellings of a very early abridged Portuguese inscription, originally reading either *fī de iôa* (*fim de jaoa,* 'end of Jaua') or *fī da i.da* ('end of the island of') with the word *jaua* on a lower level being omitted. (c) To the east of Java the island of Bali is named both Galle and Bally, the initial letter of the former be a misreading of a lower case 'b.'

Great Lakes Books

Wayne State University Press has established a new series, Great Lakes Books, to reflect its ongoing interest in Michigan and regional titles, both new and old. In connection with the Sesquicentennial celebration in Michigan, the Press invites suggestions from local historical societies and libraries, book and map clubs, and interested individuals. Out-of-print titles which deserve to see the light of day again—old favorites in history, biography and autobiography, fiction, folklore, and reference—are suitable. News of interesting out-of-print map collections and atlases which could be reissued in modern formats at an affordable cost and suggestions for new collections of these old materials are welcomed.

Suggestions for books should be communicated to Jean Owen, Editor in Chief, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, Michigan 48202, for maps, to Anne Adamus, Editor, at the Press. Dr. Philip Mason, Director of the Reuther Library at Wayne State University, who heads the Great Lakes Books advisory board, will also be happy to hear from you at the library.

International Conference on the History of Cartography

The 12th International Conference on the History of Cartography, to be held in Paris on 7–11 September 1987, has posted the following conference themes for papers in English or French.

1. Medieval worldmaps. Coordinators: D. Lecoq (Univ. de Paris VIII), D. Woodward (Univ. of Wisconsin).
2. Great discoveries cartographical methods. Coordinators: W. G. L. Randles (Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris), L. G. M. Albuquerque (Univ. de Coimbra), G. Schilder (Univ. te Utrecht).
3. State and cartography. Coordinators: M. Pelletier (Bibl. nat., Paris), J. B. Harley (Univ. of Wisconsin); J. Carre (Inst. géogr. nat., Paris), J. Bourgoin (Service Hydrogr. et océanogr. de la Marine, Paris), I. Kretschmer (Univ. Wien).
4. Methods of urban historical cartography. Coordinators: B. Fortier (Inst. français d'Architecture, Paris).
5. Islands figuration. Coordinators: F. Lestringant (Univ. de Mulhouse), E. Clutton (Univ. of Sheffield).

The deadline for both definitive inscriptions and paper summaries is 31 January 1987, and for sending complete papers, 30 April 1987 (eight pages, maximum, with double spacing). The participation fee is 800FF, 400FF for students. The form, which is available from the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center, is to be filled out and sent before the 30th of June.

Professor David Woodward

The Chicago Map Society closes its tenth season of meetings

The season is ending in a flurry of activities. In March the Society made a most enjoyable and instructive visit to the Clements Library at Ann Arbor, where its members were hosted both by the Library and by the Michigan Map Society. In April the Society invited Professor Gary Fowler, of the University of Illinois at Chicago, to talk on "Mental maps"; Professor Fowler had last spoken to the Society on this subject almost exactly ten years earlier, so that, as he said, it was time to remind members about it.

During May there were two meetings. On the 1st, Professor Bill Richardson, of Flinders University, South Australia spoke on cartographic place-names studies, with particular reference to the problems surrounding the imagined Portuguese discovery of Australia. On the 15th, Professor David Woodward returned from the University of Wisconsin to deliver a tenth-anniversary address. He talked to a most appreciative audience about the developments in the history of cartography between 1976 and 1986 which seemed to him most significant, including particularly developments associated with the genesis and emergence of the *History of Cartography.*

Finally, to round the year off, members have been invited on June 9th to attend the opening of a new exhibition at the Library, "Tools of Empire." This exhibition, which is jointly sponsored by the Library and by the Chicago Maritime Society, uses ship-models and contemporary maps to trace and comment on the westward expansion first of the European empires, and then of the infant United States. The exhibition will remain open at least until the end of July.

Newberry Acquisitions

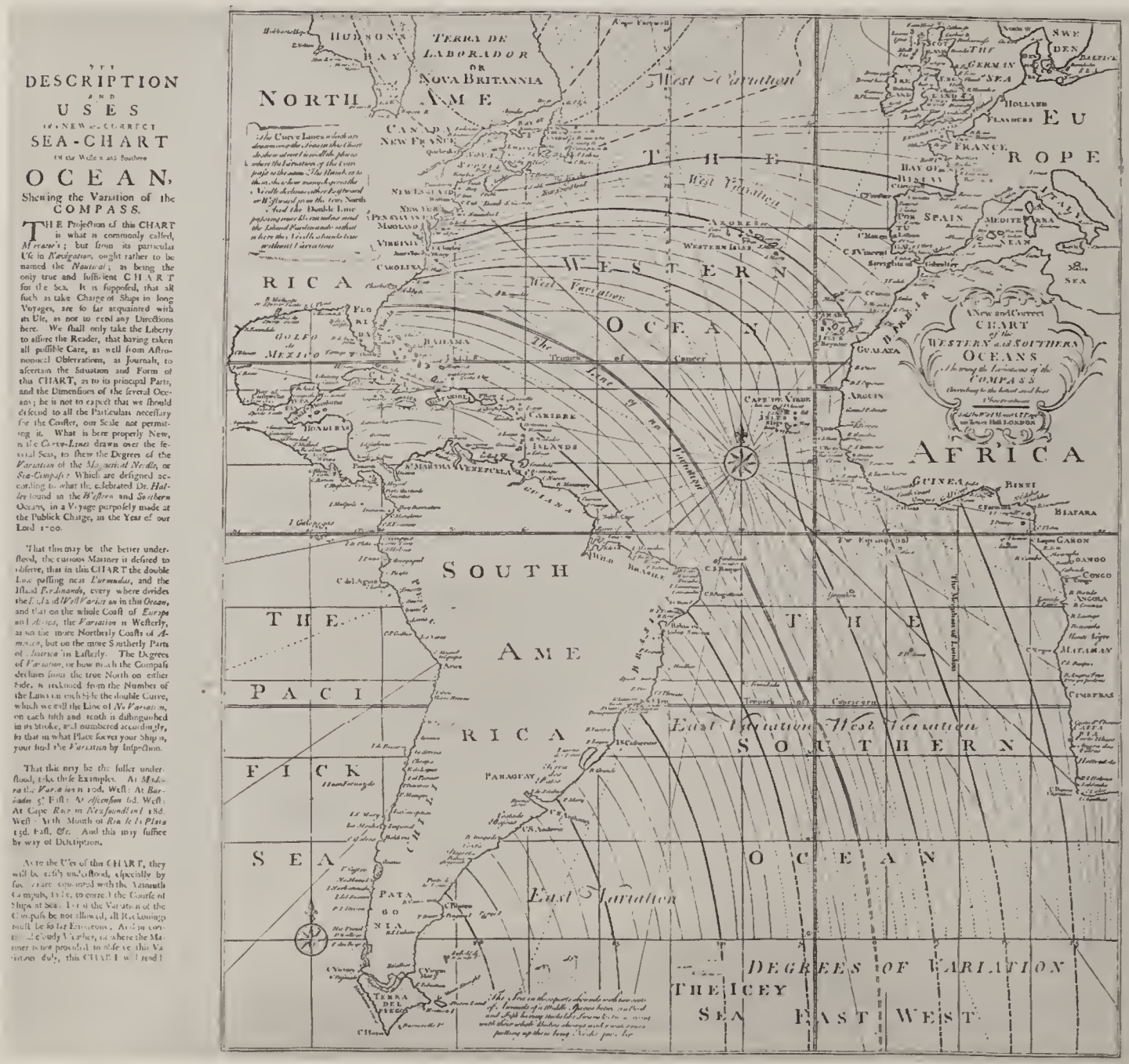
Edmond Halley's name is familiar to many because of his discovery and naming of the comet that has just completed another pass through our part of the solar system. But the Astronomer Royal was a man of many parts who performed basic research in physical geography and geophysics, and was "the first versatile thematic cartographer."[1] He made a pioneering map of wind directions in the Atlantic in 1686 and another, showing magnetic declination, in 1701. It had been known for a long time that magnetic compasses did not everywhere point to true north, but it remained for Halley to analyze the extent and pattern of this variation through a series of observations he made aboard the *Paramore* in the Atlantic in 1698–1700.[2] Halley compiled his own and other data in a chart of the Atlantic first published in 1701, reproduced by Robinson on p. 85, and as a Rand McNally Christmas card in 1985. The information was widely disseminated, both through later editions of the Atlantic chart and through a world map published from 1702 with an edition as late as 1792. The Newberry Library's copy of the Halley Atlantic chart is an edition dating from between 1758 and 1760.[3] As the text on the sides of the map indicates, "there is a perpetual though slow Change in the *Variation* almost every where, which has made it necessary to construct it anew from accurate Observations, made by the most ingenious Navigators, about the Year 1744." By comparing our chart with the first edition, almost fifty years of magnetic declination can be compared. For instance, the variation at Dublin in 1700 was about 8° W. of true north, while in 1744 it was 18° W.; Boston went from 10° W. in 1700 to 14° W., in 1744. Halley did not invent the isoline but his use of "curve lines" was the first to achieve wide distribution and for many years these now common cartographic symbols were called "Halleyan lines." The Newberry Halley chart was purchased from the Andrew McNally Cartographic Fund.

Notes

1. Arthur H. Robinson, *Early Thematic Mapping in the History of Cartography* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982), p. 49.

2. Norman J. W. Thrower, ed., *The Three Voyages of Edmond Halley in the Paramore, 1698–1701*. Hakluyt Society, Works, vols. 156–57. (London: The Hakluyt Society, 1981).

3. R. A. Gardiner, "Edmond Halley's Isogonic Charts," *Geographic Journal* 137 (1971): 419–20.



Libraries Celebrate Edmond Halley

Some notable exhibitions were prepared within this last year to celebrate the viewing of Halley's comet. In August of 1985, a conference called "Newton and Halley, 1686–1986" was arranged by Norman Thrower and hosted by UCLA's Clark Library to recall the collaborations between Sir Isaac Newton and his younger contemporary, Edmond Halley. The working portion of the meeting was invitational and consisted of five sessions: "Newton and Halley," "Newton and the *Principia,*" "Halley," "The Comet," and "Instruments and Ideas." An exhibit shown concurrently at the Clark Library included a first edition of the *Principia,* Halley's Atlantic isogonic chart (1701) in the earliest state, and several items from the Sir Edward Bullard collection of Halleiana. Rand McNally and Company facsimile of the isogonic chart as its 1985 Christmas Card.

The University of Michigan Library's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections marked the return of Halley's comet with the exhibition "Starry Messengers: Comets and Cometary Science to 1759." On view from 3 March through 26 April 1986, it included several examples of the celestial cartography dating back to the sixteenth century. These maps not only trace the paths that various comets took through the sky, but also show the development of celestial cartography over three centuries.

The Mercator Society of New York held their first meeting on 20 March 1986 in celebration of Edmond Halley. This was a reception and exhibition of maps and related materials, at which Alice Hudson spoke about Halley's cartographic works. With the Mercator Society's support, the New York Public Library's Map Division will acquire antiquarian cartographic materials and expand its conservation program. In the future, it hopes to sponsor a lecture series and exhibitions. For information about the Mercator Society, write Alice C. Hudson, Chief of the Map Division, the New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018.

A memorial to Edmond Halley will be unveiled at Westminster Abbey in October.

Map, 1700, depicting "a new and correct sea chart of the whole world showing variations of the compass." Photograph from the Map Division of The New York Public Library.

TABULA NAUTICA
Edm. Halley
NOVA BRITANNIA
NEW FRANCE
CANADA
NEW ENGLAND
VIRGINIA
CAROLINA
NEW SPAIN
GOLFO DE MEXICO
HONDURAS
CARIBBEE ISLES
TERRA MARTHA
VENEZUELA
GUIANA
BRAZILE
PARAGUAY
WESTERN ISLES
BAHAMA ISLES
CAPE DE VERD ISL
THE GREAT SOUTH SEA
THE WESTERN OCEAN
MARE PACIFICUM
MARE DEL ZUR SOUTH SEA
THE SOUTH EAST OCEAN
THE EAST OCEAN
West Variation
East Variation
The Line of no Variation
A New and Correct SEA CHART of the WHOLE WORLD Shewing the Variations of the COMPASS as they were found in the year M.DCC
The Curve lines which are drawn over Sea in this Chart, shew the Variation of the Compass in all the known Seas, the double lines divide the Seas of East and West Variation, and under the Compass stands true without Varying. In any other place, the degree of Variation is shewn by the number on the Line that passes over that place. I dare not presume to describe the like Curves in the South Sea wanting accounts thereof.
That nothing might be wanting in this Chart we have added this Polar, partly to shew the Inclination of the Meridians towards the Ple, partly to avoid the too great contraction of our Scale.

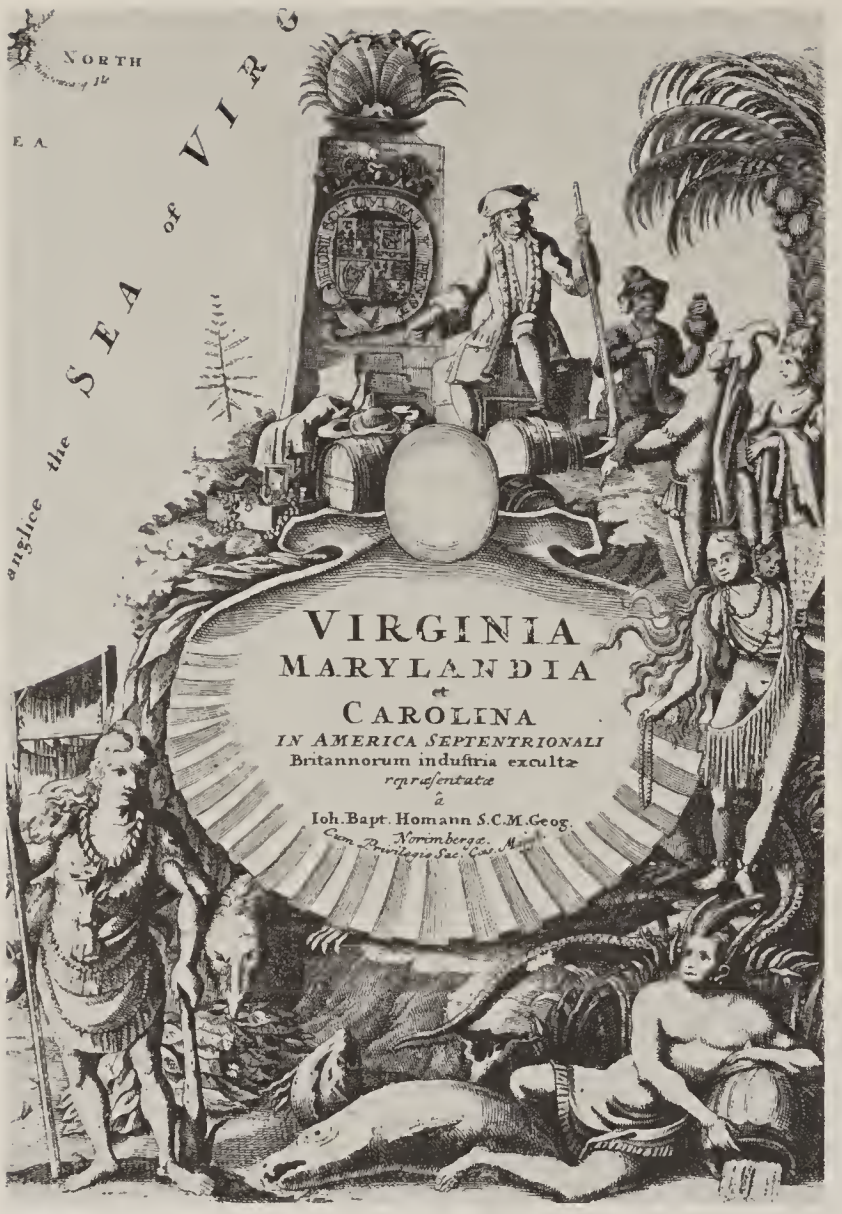


Figure 1

Figure 2

A LONG-LIVED SAVAGE

While cataloguing the contents of the Library's copy of a Homann atlas, c. 1745, I was struck by the similarity of one figure on the cartouche (fig. 1) of a map of Virginia, to the famous Susquehanna chief appearing on many editions of John Smith's map of Virginia (fig. 2), beginning in 1612.

In fact, this "savage" has a very long history. As is well known, he first appears on John White's watercolor of about 1585, reproduced, for instance, in Cumming, Skelton and Quinn, *The Discovery of North America,* p. 209. From there he was first adopted, it would seem, by Cornelis de Jode for his *Americae pars borealis*---of 1593 (fig. 3), and then by Giuseppe Rosaccio for his ten-sheet wall map of the world dated 1597 (see entry 205 in Rodney Shirley's *The mapping of the world*). After that he is found on John Smith's map of Virginia, and on the well-known derivatives of Hondius and Blaeu. It has long been known, then, that he survived well into the seventeenth century, but it comes as a surprise, all the same, to find him still flourishing in 1745!

ARTHUR HOLZHEIMER

Figure 3

Briefly Noted

A visual timetable and route map has been designed by Professor Edward Tufte of Yale University for the Morris and Essex railroad lines in New Jersey. In this approach, a computer converted a traditional timetable of twenty pages of numbers and plotted the new graphs, which fit on two sheets of paper. Then, the routes were drawn on a mosaic of USGS aerial photographs, whose resolution is sufficient to show individual buildings. This is the first use of visual timetables for the public and the first use of such photograph-maps in train schedules. Copies can be obtained from the Director of Marketing, New Jersey Transit, Post Office Box 10009, Newark, NJ 07101.

The first number of *cartomania,* the newsletter of the Association of Map Memorabilia Collectors, has been published/edited by Siegfried Feller. Featured in it is an article about "Saarland Maps on Post cards" as well as notes on auctions, pictorial postmarks, publicity labels, and miscellanea. A subscription to *cartomania* is available for an $8.00 membership payment to the Association. The address is: Association of Map Memorabilia Collectors, c/o Siegfried Feller, 8 Amherst Rd., Pelham, MA 01002.

We reviewed, in *Mapline* 34, a splendid facsimile of Giambattista Nolli's twelve-sheet *Pianta Grande di Roma* (1748). The plan, an essential document for the study of early Rome, was issued at full size, with an introductory essay by Allan Ceen. The copy we reviewed consisted of loose sheets in a portfolio and sold for $75.00. We have now seen a beautiful hardbound edition, in half leather, with linen-covered boards, which sells for $350.00. There is also another edition, bound in buckram, for $250.00. In both of these, the maps are hand-mounted on stubs so they lie flat when the book is open. These are fine quality facsimiles well worth the price. From J. H. Aronson, Highmount, New York 12441.

The International Directory of Tactile Map Collections is the first attempt to present a comprehensive list of tactile maps available for use, loan, or sale throughout the world. It was developed by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in cooperation with the Section of Libraries for the Blind, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. The maps represent a wide variety of places, ranging from typical world maps and maps of cities and countries, to very specialized ones, such as a "Nautical chart of the Apostle Islands." The *Directory* is available at no cost from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20542.

Calendar

2 June to 30 July 1986
'Tools of Empire,' an exhibition of maps and ship-models, will be shown in the Donnelley Gallery at The Newberry Library.

4 June 1986 to 31 December 1987
'The City in Maps: Urban Mapping to 1900' will be on exhibit in the Map Gallery of the British Library, London.

23 to 25 June 1986
Summer time map and print fair at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London WC1, England. Hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

28 June to 3 July 1986
Two sessions will be offered at the American Libraries Association meeting in New York City which may be of particular interest to our readers. On Saturday, 28 June, "Literary concepts of geography" is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. On Sunday, 29 June, a panel will meet to discuss "Antiquarian maps, antiquarian dealers, and the non-antiquarian collection." For further information about these sessions, write to Chairperson Linda Carlson Sharp, 212 E. Duncan, Columbus, OH 43202.

14 July and 11 August 1986
Antiquarian map and print fairs at the Bonnington Hotel, London.

11 to 14 September 1986
Sixth International Coronelli Symposium to be held at Rijksmuseum, Nederlands Scheepvart Museum, Amsterdam.

15 to 18 October 1986
Members of the North American Cartographic Information Society will convene jointly with the International Map Dealers Association at the Philadelphia Hilton in Philadelphia, PA. The theme of NACIS VI is 'Maps and charts of all ages.' For more information, please write Elaine F. Bosowski, Dept. of Geography, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085.

16 to 18 October 1986
A joint meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries and the Hakluyt Society is planned at the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. For further information, write or call Carol Urness, James Ford Bell Library, University of Minnesota, MN 55455. 612-373-2893.

Recent Publications

Antique Maps/Carl Moreland and David Bannister. 2nd ed. Christie's Collectors Guides. London: Phaidon, 1986. ISBN 0-7148-8034-5. (£14.95 from Phaidon Press Ltd., Littlegate House, St. Ebbe's St., Oxford OX1 1SQ, U.K.)

We reviewed the first edition of this book at some length in no. 33 (March 1984) and found it "authoritative" and "very useful to collectors, dealers, and librarians alike." Nothing about this new edition changes that judgement. It's still a finely made book and beautifully printed (by the same printer). Except for the correction of a few erroneous dates and typos, this is a straight reprint of the earlier edition. There is one major difference: the first edition cost $75.00; this one, at ca. $22.50 is an amazing bargain.

Bernard Romans, *Forgotten Patriot of the American Revolution: Military Engineer and Cartographer of West Point and the Hudson Valley*/Lincoln Diamant. Harrison, N.Y.: Harbor Hill Books, 1985. 160 p. ISBN 0-916346-56-0. ($15.95 from Harbor Hill Books, P. O. Box 407, Harrison, NY 10528.)

Bernard Romans is best known for his rare 1774 map of *Part of the Province of East Florida,* engraved by Paul Revere. The history of that map is here, but Romans also published several other maps and books, and served as the engineer in the construction of an abortive fort across from West Point on the Hudson. Romans' tribulations during the Revolution and his acrimonious correspondence with Congress form a major part of this engaging and well-written book. There's not a lot of documentation available about Romans, whose death is as obscure as his origins, but Diamant has fleshed him out in a believable way, backed up with thorough bibliographical notes and an adequate index.

History of Cartography/Leo Bagrow, rev. and enlarged by R. A. Skelton. 2d. ed. Chicago: Precedent Publ., 1985. ISBN 0-913750-33-6. ($64.95 from Precedent Publishing, Inc. 737 North LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois.)

For many years, the English translation of Bagrow's *History of Cartography,* edited by R. A. Skelton, has been out of print. This reviewer, having for some time browsed the shelves of used book stores in the vain hope of finding a battered copy, welcomes its reappearance at long last.

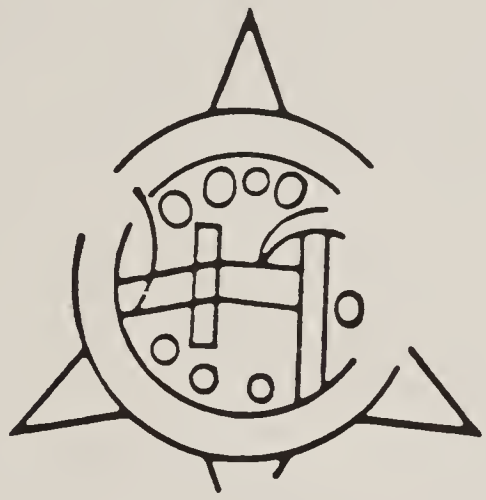
The event is all the happier bacause Precedent has gone the extra mile to produce a truly fine edition well worth its price. Purchasers will be pleased to find that although the reprint occupies less space on the bookshelf than the original, it actually has more to offer. After a lengthy search, the publishers were able to obtain the original films for all the plates in the 1963 German edition. In the process they turned up 5 color and 16 monochrome plates that have never before been published. All are reproduced with extraordinary clarity in the new edition. The original edition was notorious for its weak binding, which has long since been replaced on many institutional copies. Precedent has given its edition (which is considerably thinner, thanks to a more sensible paper) the sturdy binding that a book of reference needs.

But why, nearly four decades after Bagrow's original work appeared, does it still merit such lavish attention? There are two important reasons. First, Bagrow brought to a relatively short narrative the competence only a scholar of his stature could muster. His is the only general survey to devote so much proportional space to non-Western, non-modern cartography. In fact, the nine chapters which cover the period preceding the European discoveries are among the work's greatest strengths. Only this book among its contemporaries avoids the condescension towards non-western and pre-literate cartography too often characteristic of carto-historical scholarship even today. The chapters that follow are less remarkable, save that on the cartography of Asian countries. The chapter on "The mapping of European countries," for example, suffers from its failure to treat its subject systematically in the manner of, say, Brown's *Story of Maps.*

A second and more important reason for the continuing popularity of Bagrow-Skelton among scholars and map collectors alike is its generous endowment of plates. In comparison, the essays in Crone's and Brown's competing surveys, however satisfying they may be in some respects, do not have the benefit of adequate illustration. Nothing seems to inspire a novice map enthusiast to learn more about the history of cartography than good reproductions of the maps discussed in the text. Nor is this any less important to the experienced collector or scholar. In our field, seeing is understanding. The character of portolan charts, the technical and cosmetic differences between copper-engraved and woodcut maps, and broad stylistic or symbolic changes in maps over time cannot be appreciated without good pictures of the real things. This is why Bagrow-Skelton is a required reference on any map library shelf, and why it is such a useful "first book" for those just learning about maps. The publishers are to be commended for recovering the original plates; their efforts have recast this classic in its best light.

Index to Maps in Earth Science Publications, 1963–1983/ Compiled by John Van Balen. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1985. 400 p. ISBN 0–313–24963–6. ($49.95 from Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881.)

This is an easy-to-use index to maps that escape most traditional catalogs: maps in books and periodicals. The maps are described by titles, which, since they are usually in the form of captions, are quite brief. Following the title is the page number on which the map is found, and the number of the source. No sizes, scales, notes on orientation or relief—this is an *index,* not a catalog! The arrangement of map citations is alphabetico-classed and seems to work well. There's a table showing the arrangement in outline, and an alphabetical list of names. The 1023 sources, both books and articles, are listed at the back of the book, apparently in the order in which they were indexed. There's not much here of an historical nature, although it could be a good way to find general, black-and-white reference maps of areas of interest. But the concept of the index is good and ought to inspire others. How about an index to reproductions of old maps in books and periodicals?



BACK COPIES OF IMAGO MUNDI

On behalf of the International Society for the History of Cartography, the Center now stocks back numbers of *Imago Mundi,* and can supply them at the following advantageous price:

Volumes 27–34 as a "package" at $150 the set
Volumes 35 and 36 at $30 each.

International Directory of Map Dealers. Tring, Eng.: Map Collector Publications and the International Map Collectors' Society, 1986. 64 p. (£3.50 postpaid from Map Collector Publications Ltd., 48 High Street, Tring, Herts HP23 5B, England.)

George Ritzlin pioneered the world directory of antiquarian map dealers with his listing published under that title by the Chicago Map Society in 1978. A second edition appeared in 1980, but there were no plans for a third, so this new directory is especially welcome. In the busy world of the old-map trade, five years is a long time. This directory lists 295 dealers, 65 of which were only established since 1980. Date of establishment is a nice feature of these listings, which also give the usual addresses, phone numbers, hours of operation, catalog information, proprietors' names, and specialties. (The oldest dealer is The Parker Gallery, London, est. 1750!) The typography is excellent and the format is very handy: 4 × 8 inches, just right for a pocket. Whether you're going to Istambul or Ilminster, Helsinki or Houston, you'll want to have this directory. One suggestion for the next edition (which we hope will be the second of many): could we have a one- or two-page table of contents at the front?

L'Italia nei manoscritti dell'Officina Topografica conservati nella Biblioteca nazionale di Napoli/ Vladimiro Valerio. Napoli: Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici, 1985. ISBN 88–7723–000–Z (L'Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici, Palazzo Sera di Cassano, via Monte di Dio 14, Naples.)

This is a study of 115 manuscript maps produced between ca.1780 and ca.1815 by the Topographical Office of the Kingdom of Naples. Most are large-scale topographic maps of different regions of Naples, but there are also maps of Sicily, of the Papal States, and of Northern Italy. The annotated catalog, constituting about one-half of the book, is thorough and includes very useful index maps which show the sheet lines of all maps. Preceding the catalog, there are chapters on the history of the collection, on the engineers, draftsmen, and engravers of the Topographical Office, on the geometrical structure of the maps, and on the watermarks of the papers used. There is an index of personal names.

Map Collections in the United States and Canada: A Directory/David K. Carrington and Richard W. Stephenson, eds. 4th ed. New York: Special Libraries Association, 1985. 180 p. ISBN 0-87111-306-6. ($35.00 from Special Libraries Association, 235 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003)

Guide to U.S. Map Resources/Comp. by David A. Cobb. Chicago: American Library Association, 1986. 196 p. ISBN 0-8389-0439-4. ($25.00 from American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611)

For some years now, we've needed an up-to-date directory of map collections—now we have two. First through the tape was the Special Libraries Association (SLA), with the 4th edition of its *Directory,* first published in 1954. Compiled with the support of the Geography and Map Division of SLA, it has 804 entries, including Canadian collections. It's an 8½ × 11 inch format, perfect-bound book with paper covers; it has an index to personal names, institutions, subjects of collections, and titles of publications issued by the map collections. A few months later we got the Cobb *Guide,* an effort sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) Map and Geography Round Table. It has 919 entries from the U.S. alone, compared with 716 for the U.S. in the SLA *Directory.* The size and number of pages is almost the same, but the ALA *Guide* is sewn, hardbound, and 28% cheaper. The ALA *Guide* has no index, except for a brief and not very useful "Special Collections Index." The differences in information recorded are relatively minor: SLA gives titles of guides and catalogs published by the collections, ALA gives information about equipment, square footage, and cataloguing utility used for maps. ALA gives the chronological breakdown of collections as pre-1900 and post-1900, while SLA includes a separate count of nineteenth-century maps. For those interested in old maps, the additional category is very enlightening. The last thirty-three pages of the ALA *Guide* are devoted to "Sources for Cartographic Information"—lists of USGS and other depository libraries, addresses of state mapping agencies, and map societies—useful information, but not unique, and filling pages better devoted to an index. Indeed, the lack of an index to institutional names and subjects is a real drawback in a book of this sort. But I must admit an equally grave reservation about the layout and typography of the ALA *Guide.* The SLA uses a nice combination of bold-face type and indentation to make the cities, institutional names, and collection rubrics fairly leap off the page. ALA has a bland, uniform type face and column width, and the name of the city, used to organize entries within a state, gets lost as the fourth or fifth line of a grey entry. Of the two hundred additional U.S. entries in the ALA *Guide,* many are very small and undistinguished collections, but there are also a number of specialized collections (such as map sections in university rare-book departments) that are well worth knowing about.

Each publication has its strengths and weakness, but if I were being exiled to a desert island and could take only one directory of map collections, I'd take the SLA *Directory*—because it's much easier to read, has an index, and includes Canada. Most larger libraries will want both, at least this time around. But the map library community must ask itself whether it does not, in fact, have too much of a good thing here. Personal energy and book dollars are too limited in the library world to continually justify supporting two such similar products.

The Mysteries of the "Frenchman's Map" of Williamsburg, Virginia/Alan Simpson. Williamsburg, Va.: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1984. 42 p. ISBN 0-87935-104-7. ($6.95 from Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, P. O. Box C, Williamsburg, VA 23187)

Some maps, to paraphrase Bacon, are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested. The "Frenchman's Map" of Williamsburg now joins the short list of cartographic productions which have been so thoroughly studied as to rate their own monographs. In the 1920s and '30s the map served as a blueprint for the restoration of our premier museum village, and questions of its date, purpose, construction, use, authorship, and subsequent ownership have exercized scholarly wits ever since. Alan Simpson has provided answers and possible explanations in a scholarly, lively, and entertaining study of the mysteries of the map. Among the clues to be unravelled are the vagaries of eighteenth-century French penmanship, the height of Alexandre Berthier, and military profanity. A fine little book (with 23 illustrations, four in color) for anyone interested in Williamsburg, the Revolution, or eighteenth-century military mapmaking.

Map Talk

"Far off (no matter whether East or West
A real Country, or one made in jest)
Nor yet by modern Mandevilles disgrac'd,
Nor by Map-jobbers wretchedly misplac'd,
There lies an Island, neither great nor small,
Which, for distinction sake, I Gotham call."

First stanza of long poem in Joseph Perry's *Astronomical Diary, or Almanack, for the Year of our Lord Christ, 1773* . . .
(New Haven: Thomas and Samuel Green, [1772])